

E 345K Writing in Different Disciplines: Science and Technology, Greg Myers

1. This course has two purposes: to give students practice in the kinds of writing done in scientific and technical jobs, and to enable them to read critically popular and professional writing about the sciences. The writing assignments, though adapted to each student's major field, are designed around some kinds of writing common in many fields: a set of instructions, a technical report, a journal article, a research or technical proposal, a job application. They stress such skills as the use of specialized information sources, the persuasive presentation of information, the control of tone, the ability to write collaboratively, and the ability to edit out ambiguities in descriptions. The readings are not intended as models; they are unorthodox studies by engineers and scientists that should provoke discussion about the historical and institutional context of technical writing. *How Things Don't Work* is a critique of the design of some common household products. *Polywater* is an account of a recent scientific non-discovery. *America by Design* considers the role of engineers in adapting technology to the needs and views of business managers. I will also distribute copies of articles by scientists on information, citations, fame and careers.
2. Victor Papanek and James Hennessey, *How Things Don't Work*, Pantheon, Felix Frank, *Polywater*, MIT; David F. Noble, *America by Design: Science, Technology, and the Rise of Corporate Capitalism*, Oxford.
3. Most of the grade will be based on four case assignments (3-7 pages). There will also be short, ungraded responses to the reading.

E 346K Writing in Different Disciplines — Arts and Humanities, staff

E 346K Writing in Different Disciplines — Natural Sciences and Technology, staff

E 346K Writing in Different Disciplines — Social and Behavioral, staff

E 348 The Modern Short Story, Wellington

1. Close reading of selected stories, with an emphasis on theme and style as well as aspects of modernism.
3. A take-home essay mid-term and a comprehensive final exam. Primary weight on final exam in determining grade.